Special Management Committee for allocating spectrum to private broadcasters

*218. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Special Management Committee has been constituted for the purpose of allocating spectrum to private broadcasters;

(b) if so, whether the first phase of Private FM radio stations has been rolled out this year;

(c) if so, whether the second phase of FM stations or privatization has been recommended in June, 2002;

(d) if so, what are the details of the second phase; and

(e) the total radio licencees allocated in the first phase and the number that will be allocated in the second phase?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) A committee had been constituted under the Chairman and Managing Director, BECIL for planning of frequencies for setting up of private FM radio stations.

(b) 10 private FM stations, have so for been operationalised.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) 37 licence agreements were signed with 16 companies in the first phase. No decision has been taken regarding the numbers that will be allocated in the second phase.

Revamping of HUDCO

*219. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal before his Ministry for totally revamping HUDCO;